(c) the losses which are expected to be suffered by GDP|UP Jal Nigam on account of non-completion of STP works within the stipulated period;

(d) the measures taken by the GDP|UP Jal Nigam to recover the losses from the contractor; and

(e) wheher the GDP/UP Jai Nigam be able to enforce the clause 'Risk and cost' of the agreement against the contractor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress of work on Allahabad and Kanpur sewage treatment plants (STPs) is as follows:

	Allahabad	Kanpur
Civil works	66 per cent	52.4%
Equipment	25 per cent (Indigenous only)	18.8%

(c) There have been difficulties in the execution of the contract and disputes arose between the contractor and the U.P. Jal Nigam. As these could not be resolved and the construction of these two treatment plants, being among the biggest treatment plants on the river Ganga, was getting delayed affecting the stretch down stream of the Ganga, the Steering Committee of the Central Ganga Authority, in consultation with the Government of U.P., appointed a committee to examine the points raised by both sides and to advise the Steering Committee as to the manner in which the work could be completed expeditiously. The committee so appointed is siezed of the matter and is to submit its final report. Only when the report has been received and a decision taken with regard to the manner in which the work is to be completed, it would be known whether additional expenditure would be incurred by the GPD|UPJN or whether additional expenditure would be incurred by the GPD|UPJN or whether the work would be completed at the risk and cost of the contractor.

(d) and (e) These questions would arise only after the committee has submitted its report and the Steering Committee has taken a decision in the matter.

Smuggling of Indian tigers to China and Europe

1093. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th July, 1994 under the caption 'India's tigers ended up in soup bowl' that is, in China market and are also sold across Europe via Kashmir; and

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 100 Indian tigers have been sacrificed every year; if so, the steps Government are taking to avoid killing the tigers and to prevent their smuggling to China and Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a fact that a number of Indian tigers are poached every year to meet the demand of illegal trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. The steps taken by the Government to prevent such poaching of tigers and prevent their smuggling are as under:—

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger Areas.